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North Platte, Nebraska

Coasting in Wake of Boat

Passengers on one of the Hudson river ferries in New York were treated in the summer of 1919 to the odd spectacle of a canoe sailing in their wake, all the way across the river, without any means of propulsion. What made the canoe go was a question that puzzled many. The more observant noticed that the canoe did not keep to the smooth water directly off the ferryboat, but rode off to one side, in the rough waves that the paddle wheels kicked up. They also noticed that the canoe did not hug the ferryboat close, and that often it pursued its mysterious course at a considerable distance, though it traveled just as fast as the ferryboat. According to a writer in the Scientific American who explains the mystery, the canoe always took a position on the forward side of a wave and kept it all the way across. The wave carried the canoe along as the surf carries the Hawaiian on his surf board.

They'd Met Before

My first attempt proving a failure, I embarked a second time upon the matrimonial seas. We returned from our honeymoon by way of a little town where my new husband had business interests. That afternoon, much to my surprise, I met an old schoolmate of mine on the street. She made me promise that we would dine with her the next evening.

"I'm a newly wed, too," she explained, "and I want you to meet Harry."

For me a most delicious dinner was spoiled. Harry proved to be my first husband! I experienced the most embarrassing moment of my life when my friend exclaimed, "O, you're acquainted!"—Chicago Tribune.

Italy Trains Blind Soldiers

Italy has about 1,500 blind soldiers. All of these are being trained for useful employment. In addition to having lost their sight, a number of these unfortunate soldiers are without arms or legs. Several ingenious devices have been invented to assist the armless blind soldiers to read. One of these consists of a little pocket battery and a belt encircling the chest and containing small needles. The device plays a record that causes a different needle to prick for each letter and so the blind man reads.

Oranges for Marmalade

Women who are in the habit of making orange marmalade—this is just time of year for doing it—will be interested to know that the crop of bitter oranges in the Seville consular district is very full and of magnificent quality, though only about 75 per cent as plentiful as that of last year. Most of it goes to the marmalade manufacturers in Dundee, but about 10,000 half chests are available for other markets.

Much Sugar in This Maple

The hard or sugar maple is by far the most important of all the maples. The lumber is valuable for many purposes, but the unique thing about the tree is the abundance of sweet sap which it furnishes, says the American Forestry Magazine of Washington. While all the maples have sweet sap none of the others are so important as sugar producers. This was appreciated in early times and a century and a quarter ago when the real estate men of the time were attempting to lure New England men to Pennsylvania lands "out west" they put on their map in big letters, "The Sugar Tree Grows Here."

FORBIDDEN TO WORK SUNDAY

Ban Placed on Various Tradesmen and Laborers by Old British Laws, Seldom Obeyed.

Now and again we read of a tradesman who, to help his own pocket and oblige certain customers, opens his place of business on Sunday and trades. Some tradesmen have been summoned and fined scores of times, according to London Answers.

The Lord's day observances act forbids—the selection—any tradesman, workman, artificer or laborer to work on Sunday, except for works of charity or necessity. Further, the above four classes are not to use any boat, or barge, or sell goods, cooked food excepted, under a penalty of 5 shillings.

If a horse dealer sells a horse on Sunday he cannot, in law, sue for its price; but if neither party to the equine transaction is a horse dealer, then the contract is perfectly good!

And if any ordinary trader sells goods on a Sunday in the ordinary way of his business he cannot only be summoned, but if he has given credit he cannot sue the purchaser! If, however, the purchaser keeps the Sunday-bought goods, and afterward—on a week day—promises to pay for them, then he can, on default, be sued.

But—a wonderful act—farmers, attorneys, surgeons, cab drivers, coach proprietors and Jews are exempt.

Why the act, which we see broken in hundreds of places each Sunday, is not often invoked, is because proceedings cannot be taken without the written consent of the chief constable of the district, two J. P.'s, or a stipendiary magistrate.

Many decline to move in the matter. Otherwise, tradesmen, workmen, artificers and laborers would have a hot time. Professional men would be exempt.

NOISE HARSH AND CONSTANT

Impossible for Any One to Escape From the Din That Marks Modern City Life.

They say that a canary bird intended by nature to live in the quiet woods suffers constant torture while in captivity from the harsh noises all around it.

But before the Antieruelty society starts in to turn loose all canaries for that reason it might take up the case of its own ears, writes "Girard" in the Philadelphia Press.

The motor boat on the stream and the airplane in the sky, the auto horn's piercing scream and the choo-choo rushing by, are only a few of the ear-drum swatters which put us all in a class with the bird in the gilded cage. And especially that auto horn.

There seems to be keen rivalry among dealers to market the horn that can split the most ears, as you can see by a few ads which I quote:

"Loudest signal of its kind."
 "Has the quick, snappy shriek."
 "Clears the way half a mile ahead."
 "It makes the pedestrian jump."
 "Joits the air with a threat of danger."
 "Has a piercing get-out-of-the-way sound."

The Flag of the Mayflower

The proposed celebration in Manchester of the tercentenary of the sailing of the Mayflower may render it of interest to direct attention to a curious anachronism. In the magnificent fresco in the palace of Westminster, in which the departure of the Pilgrim Fathers is depicted, the Mayflower is flying a Union Jack. The Union Jack, as every one knows, did not come into existence till the passing of the first Act of Union in 1800—one hundred and eighty years after the departure of the Pilgrim fathers. One of the formalities connected with the Irish Union was a new standard combining the three orders of St. George, St. Andrew and St. Patrick, which was hoisted in the capitals of England, Scotland and Ireland.—Manchester Guardian.

PIANO IN STORAGE FOR SALE AT A BARGAIN.

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Estray Notice.

Taken up by the undersigned on his place six miles southwest of North Platte, on or about March 20th, 1920, one bay mare, one gray mare and one yearling bay colt. Owner can have same by proving property, and paying charges.

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THE PROMISE RING.

By VICTOR REDCLIFFE.

"Don't say a word, please. Just listen to me for a moment before the others come around. I've wanted to speak to you all this afternoon, but did not have the chance. Miss Clare, I shall be back in town next week. Then you must find time to listen to me about a matter that lies directly next to my heart."

Pretty Myrtle Clare looked surprised, confused, almost frightened. It was at a lawn party and all the afternoon she had noticed Walter Pierce fidgeting about in her vicinity. He was a quiet, bashful sort of a young man, and while he now spoke the strain of some deep emotion was evident.

"I—I don't understand, Mr. Pierce," said Myrtle, half smiling that in a preliminary way he was making love to her.

Pierce was hurried, almost incoherent, at any moment others might intrude upon the bush-shielded spot where they were. He pressed close to Myrtle in his agitation even seizing her hand and speaking in low but vehement accents.

"My happiness, my future depends upon my telling you all!" he whispered. "If you fall me I shall be wretched. It will be next Thursday. At the little park spot where the junction roads meet. Oh, say that you will be there at two in the afternoon."

"But—why—I cannot comprehend."

"But you will come?" implored Pierce. "Oh, say so! Really, you must! You are a good, kind-hearted girl. Everybody says so. Promise! Ah, some one is coming. Here. Take this. It is a pledge. It will be your promise ring. Next Thursday at two o'clock."

With that Pierce vanished as merry voices told of others approaching. They passed by Myrtle without noticing her. She stood rooted to the spot, lost in a variety of emotions she could not subdue. She looked down at the golden circlet with eyes wondering and distended. A promise ring generally covered an arrangement where an engagement in time was to follow.

Had she pledged herself to Walter Pierce through her silence and bewilderment? All in a rush Pierce had fairly carried her off her feet. She did not dislike him, but love!—Myrtle flushed and pulsated as she thought of Elwyn Brooks, who of all her young male acquaintances was most close to her as a dear, dear friend—and something more.

"It can't be that Mr. Pierce is in love with me," she reasoned finally. "It is ridiculous to suppose so. If he was he had time to say so. No, no, I won't believe it. It must be concerning something else he wishes to speak to me about. I'll wear the ring just for the novelty of the thing, and I will meet him as he wishes just because I am curious and interested. Maybe he is in some trouble and needs a counselor, a consoler," and gentle, innocent Myrtle tried to feel quite sisterly and compassionate.

Her sister Vivian noticed the golden circlet as they were in their room that night. It had been placed on the engagement finger and Vivian's eyes expressed decided interest.

Vivian was the exact opposite of Myrtle. She was of regal beauty and her manner did not make her approachable by the opposite sex. She rather chilled by her supposed hauteur, which, however, was really the mask of a warm, generous nature but had become a confirmed mannerism.

"A new ring?" she suggested interrogatingly.

"Why, yes; a promise ring, Vivian. It belongs to Walter Pierce."

A half suppressed gasp issued from the lips of Vivian. She paled. Then, like one turned to marble, she pretended to busy herself, putting away the jewelry she wore and spoke not another word. The mother of the girls entered the room at that moment and the full effect of the extraordinary demeanor of her sister was lost on Myrtle.

And now trouble came to poor, sympathetic Myrtle. A hint of the promise ring led to surmise and exaggeration and Elwyn Brooks received a distorted notion of the circumstance. He avoided Myrtle and the Clare home, while Vivian became strangely silent and downcast.

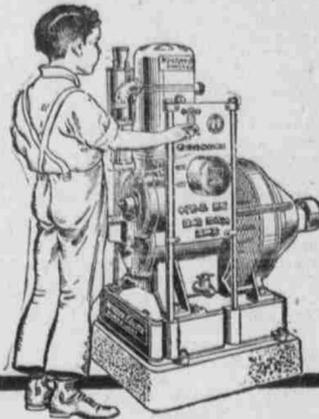
"Oh! I must see this Walter Pierce and give him back the ring, and tell him I do not care for him and get this troubling matter straightened out," determined Myrtle, and at two o'clock Thursday afternoon she was at the rendezvous of the appointment.

"I am so glad you have come," spoke Pierce at once. "I felt from the first that your kind heart would be inclined to calm the fears and aid the hopes of a man deeply in love, and so impressed with the superiority and rare character of your sister that you would try and help me to win her affection."

"Then it's Vivian," began Myrtle, and paused, dazzled, enlightened by the revelation.

And the skies cleared before sunset, for Vivian was glad to receive the addresses of a true and worthy man, and Elwyn Brooks, apprized of the real facts of the case, impulsively substituted an engagement ring for the one that had caused so much misunderstanding.

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